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TAGS: OSCI, YO

SUBJECT: SFCP:NOVEMBER 19-21 MEETING OF U.S.-YUGOSLAV

JOINT BOARD ON S&T COOPERATION

1. SUMMARY: BOARD CONCLUDED ITS MEETING NOVEMBER 21 WITH APPROVAL OF ELEVEN NEW PROJECTS, NEW SIX-YEAR PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES IN HEALTH FIELD, NEW AND PROMISING PROGRAM FOR MAINTAINING HIGH LEVEL OF S&T COOPERATION AFTER INITIAL JOINT FUND USED UP, AND CANCELLATION OF THE NSF PROJECT QUALITY OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY (UEE). POTENTIAL UNFAVORABLE IMPACT OF TERMINATION QEE HAS BEEN CONTAINED, WITH BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THIS DIFFICULT DECISION ENSURES THAT OVERALL PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE TO MANIFEST SOLID US-YUGOSLAV COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. JOINT BOARD DECISION DOCUMENT SIGNED NOVEMBER 21 PROVIDES, INTER ALIA, FOR (A) APPROVAL OF ELEVEN NEW PROJECTS COSTING TOTAL OF 19,048,152 DINARS AND AUTHORIZATION FOR EXPENDITURE OF 58,318,894 DINARS FROM JOINT FUND IN CY 1975;
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(D) A NEW SIX-YEAR PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES IN THE HEALTH FIELD WITH INITIAL CY 1975 FUNDING OF 900,000 DINARS; (C) CAN-

CELLATION OF QEE; (D) OPENING OF THIRD JOINT FUND BANK ACCOUNT WHICH WILL SIMPLIFY AND SPEED UP PAYMENTS OF PER DIEM AND TRAVEL EXPENSES OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS VISITING YUGOSLAVIA; (E) PAYMENTS FROM JOINT FUND FOR US TRAVEL

EXPENSES TO BE MADE TO EMBASSY OR TO PERSON, INSTITUTION OR ENTERPRISE DESIGNATED BY EMBASSY.

3. CANCELLATION OF QEE WAS AGREED ONLY AFTER LENGTHY ARDUOUS NEGOTIATION FAILED TO PRODUCE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. FINAL YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL OFFERED CONTINUATION OF QEE AT REDUCED LEVEL OF ACTIVITY, WITH PROVISIO THAT BILATERAL EXPERT GROUP WOULD REVIEW TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT ASPECTS OF PROJECT IN JANUARY 1975 AND MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO JOINT BOARD FOR ANY CHANGES DEEMED NECESSARY. AN UNSHAKEABLE PART OF THIS YUGOSLAV POSITION WAS THEIR INSISTENCE ON MAINTAINING UNILATERAL BLOCKAGE OF JOINT FUND MONIES FOR QEE - MONIES PAID IN SUMMER 1973 WITH WRITTEN AGREEMENT OF BOTH SIDES. U.S. SIDE MADE CLEAR IT COULD NEITHER ACCEPT THIS UNILATERAL YUGOSLAV ACTION, NOR COULD IT NEGOTIATE SO LONG AS YUGOSLAVS CONTINUED TO BLOCK FUNDS. U.S. THEN OFFERED COUNTERPROPOSAL CALLING FOR EXECUTION OF QEE GRANT DOCUMENT, FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT AS FORMALLY AGREED IN WRITING DECEMBER 14, 1974, INCLUDING UNBLOCKING FUNDS. U.S. SIDE ANNOUNCED WILLINGNESS TO UNDERTAKE WITH OPEN MIND THE TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF QEE ABOUT MARCH/APRIL 1975, AFTER IT HAD CHANCE TO REALLY GET UNDER WAY.

4. NEITHER OF FOREGOING POSITIONS WAS MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE, SO IT WAS RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO TERMINATE THE PROJECT. AS OF CONCLUSION OF MEETING NOVEMBER 21 BOTH SIDES HAD CLEARLY SHOWN THAT CANCELLATION QEE NEED HAVE NO ADVERSE IMPACT ON REMAINDER OF PROGRAM. FUNDS FREED BY THIS DECISION WILL BE PUT INTO OTHER JOINT PROJECTS TO BE AGREED BETWEEN NSF AND YUGOSLAV FUNDING AGENCY.

5. PURSUANT TO EXISTING AUTHORITY (AND THEREFORE NOT IN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CLUDED IN DECISION DOCUMENT) THERE WAS AGREEMENT TO PAY FROM JOINT FUND INTEREST ACCOUNT FOR TRAVEL OF U.S. AND YUGOSLAV SCIENTISTS FOR PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING SUBJECTS FOR COOPERATIVE RESEARCH TO BE CARRIED OUT IN BOTH YUGOSLAVIA AND THE U.S. SUCH PROJECTS, NOT REQUIRING PAYMENT OF U.S. MONEY TO YUGOSLAV INSTITUTIONS, SEEMS PROMISING MEANS FOR CONTINUING S&T COOPERATION AFTER PRESENT JOINT FUND IS EXHAUSTED.

6. PROBABLY AS WAY OF INDICATING IMPORTANCE GOY PLACES ON

PROGRAM YUGOSLAV CHARGE UNEXPECTEDLY ATTENDED LAST SESSION
OF BOARD MEETING WHEN DECISION DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED. INGERSOLL

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